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Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7004
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OREP (MCGOVERN, GEORGE), IS, JO
SUBJ: CODEL MCGOVERN PRESS COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY. FAIRLY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN JERUSALEM ARABIC PRESS FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON SENATOR MCGOVERN'S MEETINGS WITH WEST BANKERS AND VIEWS HE EXPRESSED ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STATE. LEADING DAILY AL QUDS DEVOTED LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE STORY APRIL 5 TO SENATOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND IN APRIL 6 EDITORIAL CITED HIS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STATE AND ARAFAT CALL FOR IMPROVED PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS AS IMPORTANT STATEMENTS THAT COULD LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IF ACTED UPON. LEFT-WING AL SHAAB ON APRIL 3 EXPRESSED GREAT SKEPTICISM OVER USEFULNESS OF VISIT FOR PALESTINIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS COVERAGE OF SENATOR MCGOVERN'S APRIL 2-7 VISIT NATURALLY FOCUSED ON HIS SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE AND HIS VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IF SETTLEMENT TO BE ACHIEVED. IN APRIL 5 EDITORIAL AL QUDS CITES ARAFAT'S DOHA PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON NEED FOR BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND
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JORDAN AND MCGOVERN'S SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STATE AS TWO

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IMPORTANT STATEMENTS THAT, IF IMPLEMENTED, COULD MEAN REAL
PROGRESS. IT SUGGESTS THAT MCGOVERN STATEMENT IMPORTANT EVEN
IF NOT ACTED UPON NOW, FOR THIS IS FIRST TIME IMPORTANT U.S.
OFFICIAL MADE SUCH STATEMENT. ONLY OTHER EDITORIAL COVERAGE WAS
IN APRIL 3 LEFTIST, ANTI-U.S. AL SHAAB. IT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT
SENATOR'S CONCLUSIONS WRITTEN BEFORE HE LEFT HOME AND TRIP
UNLIKELY TO CHANGE HIS ACTIONS ONCE BACK IN U.S. ANY MORE THAN
HAD BEEN CASE WITH PAST VIP VISITORS FROM U.S.

3. LEAD NEWS STORY IN APRIL 5 AL QUDS GIVES ACCURATE ACCOUNT
OF SENATOR'S APRIL 4 PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING POINTS NOTED
ABOVE AND SENATOR'S OPINION THAT ARAFAT PREPARED TO WORK FOR
"DREAM" OF SECULAR PALESTINIAN STATE BY PEACEFUL MEANS ONCE
ARAB PALESTINIAN STATE ACHEIVED UNDER PEACE AGREEMENT. APRIL 7
AL QUDS REPORTS TWO-HOUR MCGOVERN MEETING WITH GEN. SHARON DURING
WHICH LATTER REPORTEDLY SAID NO ISRAELI GOVT. COULD GIVE UP
WEST BANK AND GAZA TO FOREIGN HANDS, INCLUDING JORDAN. MCGOVERN
SAID TO HAVE TOLD SHARON U.S. COULD NOT JEOPARDIZE ITS POSITION
IN ME THROUGH UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, TO WHICH SHARON
SAID TO HAVE REPLIED ISRAEL COULD NOT JEOPARDIZE ITS SECURITY
FOR U.S. CONVENIENCES.

4. FACT MCGOVERN MET WITH A FEW WEST BANKERS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE
PRESS INTEREST, BUT DETAILS REPORTED ONLY IN HEBREW PRESS.
HA'ARETZ REPORT BY LITANI APRIL 3 GAVE IMPRESSION CONGEN ORGANIZED
MEETINGS AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FACT HE DID NOT SEE OFFICIALS
OR THOSE WITH PRO-JORDANIAN SYMPATHIES. (LITANI HAD HEARD FROM
ISRAELI MFA THAT CONGEN WAS IN CHARGE OF SENATOR'S WEST BANK
SCHEDULE, THOUGH IN FACT WE SIMPLY CONVEYED CODELS INVITATIONS.
AS IT TURNED OUT MCGOVERN DID NOT IN FACT SEE PRO-HASHEMITE
WEST BANKER; ANWAR NUSEIBEH WAS ON CODEL'S LIST BUT WAS
OUT OF TOWN.)
DAY

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